

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

COUNTRY **Czechoslovakia**

REPORT

SUBJECT **Shortage of Medicaments and Various Small Items**

DATE DISTR. 25 November 1955 25X1

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

DATE ACQUIRED

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1.

various shortages of consumer goods

in the CSR.

This situation changed abruptly in about May or June 1955

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lately many items began to disappear from the Czechoslovak market and thought that this was due to the dwindling of old supplies not replenished by new production.

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any kind of anti-fever tablets; penicillin ointment; "trachicillin"; "tracemoplast"; "hansaplast"; ointment for burns; various medicaments according to doctors' prescriptions unobtainable in the CSR; small scissors; cotton and silk threads; sewing-machine needles; brief-case locks; rubber washers of various sizes<sup>1</sup>; candles; flashlight batteries; small illumination bulbs for radios; radio fuses, condensers and other radio spare parts<sup>2</sup>; bicycle tube repair kits; carbide and carbide lamps.

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3. there was also a growing shortage of several kinds of foodstuffs, such as cocoa, tea, citrus fruit. Bananas have appeared on the market about twice since 1948. Spices and almonds are virtually unobtainable. some ordinary foodstuffs of which there is at present shortage in the CSR, such as dried peas, beans, rice, lentils and sardines. there was a shortage of home-grown fruit. As for meat, the only kind regularly available in small quantities is beef while pork appears in the butchers' shops very rarely.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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1.  Comment. It seems that production of rubber goods for household use has been completely stopped.
2.  Comment. While new radio sets are available in sufficient quantities in several price levels, radio spare parts of any description are unobtainable.

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